

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

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AGR-20 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 EA-11 DRC-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /199 W

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R 261231Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6602

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0136

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMMEBASSY ROME 0147

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NY

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AFDROUGHT

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

DSED BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN

PARIS FOR HELMAN

ROME FOR SKILES

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NIGER COUNTRY PROGRAM

SUMMARY: SLOW STARTING DISCUSSIONS DUE HEAVY HAND PLANNING AGENCY.

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MOST COOPERATIVE UNDP, FED, FAC, NCO TALKS. UNEVEN QUALITY AND

CAPABILITY GON AGENCIES DEMAND HEAVY TECHNICAL INPUTS CERTAIN AREAS, AND RAISE DOUBTS ACHIEVEMENT SHORT-TERM RESULTS IN STORAGE AND ROADS. PROGRAM ENVISAGED 1.87 TO 2.15 MILLION DOLS.

1. IN A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GON AGENCIES IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS INADEQUATELY PREPARED DESPITE THREE WEEKS' EFFORTS BY ADO/EMBASSY TO INFORM AND MOTIVATE GON BEFORE TEAM ARRIVAL AND SET UP COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE VISITS AND CONSULTATIONS AMONG MINISTRIES, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND DONORS. ON ONE HAND SERVICE DIRECTORATES OF UNEVEN QUALITY; ON OTHER HAND GON FIRST OF SIX COUNTRIES TO SHOW THE STIFLING ROLE OF PLANNING DIRECTORATE, WHICH PART OF MIN/DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION. MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO GON'S INADEQUATE PREPARATION WAS COINCIDENCE FEI TEAM WITH VISIT FIFTEEN-MAN WORLD BANK TEAM WHICH ITSELF PRECEDED BY UNDP MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SAHEL TEAM AND FRG MISSIONS IN PAST TWO WEEKS.

2. REPEATEDLY PROJECTSDETAILS, ESPECIALLY FIRM FIGURES AND RELATIVE PRIORITIES NOT FORTHCOMING. IN ALMOST ALL CASES TEAM RECEIVED CLEAR MESSAGE THAT PLANNING DIRECTORATE WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE RELATIVE PRIORITIES AND APPROVE BUDGETS.

3. PLANNING DIRECTORATE, UNDER YOUNG, ENERGETIC, WELL-TRAINED AND SUPPOSEDLY CAPABLE DIRECTOR ALFIDJA ABDURAHMAN UNFORTUNATELY SEEM LACK EXPERTISE AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY EXPEDITE PLANNING PROCESS. RATHER HIS OFFICE SEEMS BOTTLENECK- PROJECTS FLOWING IN BUT NO DECISIONS COMING OUT. PRESUMABLY, ALFIDJA OVERWORKED AND OVERBURDENED AND UNABLE/UNWILLING DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY. PLANNING ASSISTANCE, IF ACCEPTABLE, IS CLERLY NEEDED HERE.

4. IN NIGER, ALSO, TEAM NOTED OVERT PRESSURES BY PLANNING TO INFLUENCE ALLOCATION OF AID BETWEEN MINISTRIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF AID GEOGRAPHICALLY. THIS NOT NECESSARILY BAD OR LACKING OTHER COUNTRIES, RATHER SEEMS UNSOPHISTICATED OF PLANNING HERE.

5. IN PART, NIGER SURFEITED WITH DONOR ASSISTANCE AND GON FACED WITH ACUTE PROBLEM ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY. DISCUSSIONS WITH IBRD REPS INDICATED THEY ALREADY MADE 2 MILLIION DOLS AVAILABLE, AWAITING PROJECTS, WHICH SO FAR AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS), NOT FORTHCOMING. UNDP RES REP NOTED PRIVATE REMARKS OF MINISTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION, BEMBELLO THAT HE UNABLE PRODUCE PROJECTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MONEY OFFERED BY DONORS.

6. IN TRIP TO RELIEF CAMP OUTSIDE NIAMEY, SAW CONDITIONS MALI NOMADS. SITUATION MORE DEPRESSING THAN PHYSICALLY BAD FOR 2,500 REFUGEES. UNDERSTOOD FROM NORWEGIAN DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS THAT HQ HAS INFOMED HIM ASSISTANCE CANNOT CONTINUE MUCH LONGER. SWEDISH DOCTOR ALSO NOTED ISOLATED CASES TYPHOID

AND CHOLERA. BOTH INDICATED MUCH WORSE CONDITIONS OTHER MALIAN
NAMAD COMPS, GENERAL MALNUTRITION, OVER DOZEN DEATHS VARIOUS
CAUSES PAST MONTH.

7. IN TRIP TO CHINESE RICE PROJECT, SAW EXCELLENT 1,000 HECTARE
IRRIGATED RICE FIELDS, WELL-ORGANIZED AND OPERATED. FIRST
400 HA COMPLETELY TURNED OVER TO NIGERIEN PEASANTS, ANOTHER 300 HA
IN PRECESS INTRODUCTION TO PEASANTS, AND LAST 300 HA BEING
LEVELLED. PILOT PLOTS PRODUCED 12 TONS RICE ON TWO CROP
YEAR, PEASANT CULTIVATION PRODUCING EIGHT TONS RICE PER
HA ON TWO CROPS. CHINESE GROUP OF 65 INCLUDES IRRIGATION,
EXTENSION AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE TEAMS. GLARING OMISSION
IS TOTAL LACK INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT GON CAPABILITY
MANAGE AND OPERATE PROJECT.

8. SPECIAL MEETING WITH PIRZIO-BIROLI, HEAD FED SAHEL EFFORT.
INTERESTING PERSONALITY WHO INITIATED CONVERSATION WITH QUESTION-
QUOTE-CAN WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD ALL TRY TO KEEP THE NOMADS FROM
GOING BACK INTO THE SAHEL-UNQUOTE. QUESTION PURELY RHETORICAL.
PIRZIO-BIROLI LAUNCHED INTO SERIES OF IDEAS RANGING FROM GRAND
STRATEGY, TACTICS, SOLAR COOKERS, RESEARCH ON WEATHER PREDICTION,
NEWLY DESIGNED WINDMILL WITH DUAL ROTORS PRODUCING ELECTRICITY
DRIVING WATER PUMP (COMPLETE WITH PHOTOS OF WINDMILL, DANGERS OF
INDISCRIMINATE WELL DRILLING, ETC. CLEARLY PIRZIO-BIROLI BULGING
WITH IDEAS AS YET UNTRIED AND UNPROGRAMMED. SHOULD BE MOST
INTERESTED IN KEEPING CONTACT AND LEARNING HIS EXACT CONTINUING
ROLE IN FED PLANNING AND OPERATIONS. AGREED WE SHOULD MEET AGAIN
ENSURE FUTURE COORDINATION.

9 EXCELLENT MEETINGS OTHER DONORS, ESPECIALLY UNDP. NEW RES REP.
ROTIVAL SEEMS TAKING ACTIVE LEAD IN COORDINATION, ARRANGED FULL
BRIEFING UN PROJECTS, INVITED AND OFFERED FULL COOPERATION.

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R 261231Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6603
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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AFDROUGHT

10 FIND VERY POSITIVE NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONAL ROLE IN CWS AND CARE. SEEMS ACCEPTED BY GON AND FINDING ACTIVE ROLE REACHING PEASANTS AND NOMADS WITH OOD MEASURE SUCCESS.

11. AS IN UPPER VOLTA, FIND GON WILLING ALLOW DONOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION. DESPITE LIP SERVICE AND ISOLATED EFFORTS, NO REAL CONCERTED PLAN EXPOSED ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY AND BUILD OWN INFRASTRUCTURE.

12. WHILE SOME TRANSPORT-STORAGE REQUIRED, DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT REORGANIZATION AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT TRANSPORT FACILITIES, INCLUDING FREIGHT ALLOCATION PUBLIC/COMMERCIAL TRUCKING, COULD SOLVE SITUATION. AIRLIFT DEFINITELY NOT REPEAT NOT NEEDED.
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HOWEVER, PREVAILING BELIEF SUCH NECESSARY MANAGEMENT MEASURES WILL NOT BE TAKEN.

13. FOLLOWING MAJOR ALLOCATIONS PROPOSED NEAR TIME PROGRAM:

A. ANIMAL HEALTH (-) CONCERTED EFFORT FED/FAC/FAO/GON
PROGRAM VACCINATION, DEWORMING AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS
CONTROL DOLS 180,000 - 200,000

(B) SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING FOR HERD
PRESERVATION DOLS 150,000 - 200,000

B. CEREAL PRODUCTION - EXPAND RICE PRODUCTION 8,000 TONS
ON 1,000 HA OVER ONE AND ONE HALF YRS DOLS 500,000

C. SOIL CONSERVATION AND REFORESTATION
IMPROVED CONSERVATION MEASURES BY PLANTING GAO TREES IN TWO
AREAS WITH UNDP TECH ASSISTANCE DOLS 200,000 - 235,000

D. HEALTH

RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY TEAMS, INCLUDING PREVENTATIVE
HEALTH, NUTRITION. JOINT UNICEF, WHO, CIDE
PARTICIPATION DOLS 200,000

E. COOPERATIVES AND CREDIT UNDER UNCC

TRAINING OF VILLAGE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AGENTS
FOR VEGETABLE AND SMALL STOCK PRODUCTION IN
AGADES AREA. ALSO TRAIN IRRIGATION-AGRICULTURE-
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE TEAMS FOR IRRIGATED RICE
PROJECT DOLS 200,000 - 250,000

F. STORAGE FACILITIES

SIMPLE EMERGENCY STORAGE AT DIFFICULT ACCESS POSINT
..... DOLS 200,000 - 250,000

G. MINOR ROAD REPAIRS DOLS 95,000 - 150,000

H. NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(A) VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT FOOD AND VEG. PRODUCTION
(CARE) DOLS 75,000 - 100,000
(B) DATE PALM DISEASE (SCALES) CONTROL AND
AGRICULTURE DEVEL. (CWS) DOLS 120,000
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I. PASTURE SEEDING

RESEEDING OF PASTURES IN FIVE EXPERIMENTAL AREAS
..... DOLS 100,000 - 150,000

TOTAL DOLS 2.02 - 2.35 MILLION

14. IN ADDITION, TEAM HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL PROJECTS ELIGIBLE
FOR EARLY MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAM INCLUDING SEED MULTIPLICATION, FEED
MILL, RECONSTITUTING HERD. JOINTLY AGREED ON EARLY FOLLOW-UP.

15. AT FINAL MEETING WITH MINISTER DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION,
TEAM RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TWO AREAS -

A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP PLAN AND DEVELOP PROJECTS.
EXPLAIN ONLY POSSIBILITY THROUGH UNDP/FAO SECONDMENT
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THIS SHOULD BE COORDINATED
WITH DIRECT UNDP EFFORT TO INITIATE PROJECT TO GIVE PLANNING
ASSISTANCE TO GON.

B) SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE TO ORGANIZE/ARRANGE FIELD TRIALS OF
NEW CEREAL SEED VARIETIES. THIS NEEDS TO BE STARTED AND
READY BEFORE NEXT PLANTING SEASON. THIS REQUEST MOST REASON-
ABLE AND SHOULD, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BE MET.

16. MINISTER DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION BEMBELLO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR USG GENEROUS ASSISTANCE TO NIGER AS SOLID PROOF THAT TERM- QUOTE HUMAN SOLIDARITY UNQUOTE WAS NOT MERELY NICE SOUNDING PHRASE. HE ALSO REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT GON TECHNICAL SERVICES NOT FAIL IN THEIR SUPPORT OF PROPOSED PROJECTS.

17. MOST APPRECIATIVE ADO/EMBASSY EFFORTS ORGANIZE TEAM VISIT UNDER MOST DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

DECON 4/26/74
BUCHE

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